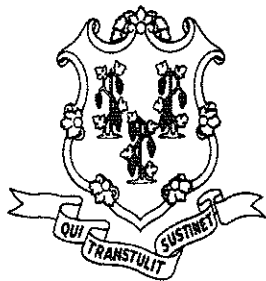


Senator Eric D. Coleman
Second District

Legislative Office Building
Room 2500

Capitol: 860-240-0035



Deputy President Pro Tempore

Chairman
Judiciary Committee

Vice Chairman
Planning & Development Committee

State of Connecticut GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Senator Prague, Representative Zalaskie and members of the Labor & Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of **SB736**, An Act Concerning a Surety Bond Guarantee Program for Emerging Contractors.

Through this bill, I am seeking to facilitate the opportunity for many small and minority contractors to participate in public works construction projects.

For many years, bonding along with access to capitol have served as the most significant barriers to the ability of many small and minority contractors to effectively compete in the construction industry.

In a climate where everyone has recognized that putting people to work is essential to our economic recovery, putting many small and minority contractors in a position to win contracts and successfully perform those contracts will in turn put those contractors in a position to hire more people and to the extent that these people hired are from distressed communities then that will have wide spread positive implications, including improved public safety and less reliance on social services programs.

Please support SB736. Again, thank you for your time and your consideration of this request.